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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 41% Partly Cloudy Sensex 79,212 | Nifty 24,039 | Gold 94,397 | Silver 96,120 | Dollar 85.37 | Euro 97.02 | GBP 113.56

6,000% rise in number of vehicles in Bengaluru today as compared to 1990; city's 1.2 crore vehicle population signifies how weak public transport system has forced more people to switch to personal modes of commute

CRUSH HOUR

Experts call for multi-modal transport system with smart interchanges

| Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

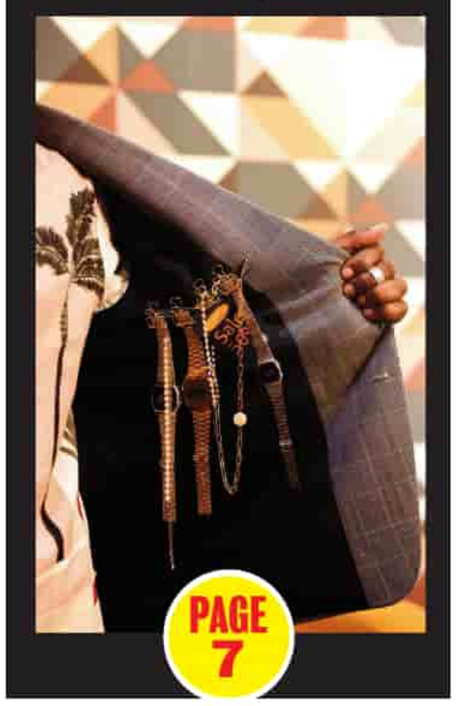
The Silicon Valley of India is getting crushed under the weight of its own growth. With 1.2 crore vehicles now crowding its streets, almost matching the city's human population of 1.4 crore, Bengaluru finds itself on the brink of a mobility meltdown. This near one-to-one ratio between vehicles and residents is no longer just a statistical curiosity— it is a reflection of a city in crisis.

Since 1990, the number of vehicles on Bengaluru's roads has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>

TAKE WHAT THEY GET

Nothing is too petty for these thieves — from luxury watches to lingerie and from car accessories to cattle poop



PAGE 7

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THINGS TO DO

01 Starry screening

Moxy Bengaluru Airport teams up with Sunset Cinema Club for an open-air screening of Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani at the Layover Pool Bar. Enjoy a breezy night with friends, celebrating friendship, travel, and young love under the stars. **Where: Layover Pool Bar, Moxy Bengaluru Airport, Navarathna Agrahara. When: April 27, 7.00 pm onwards**

02 Wellness workshop

Explore an unforgettable workshop on how shame impacts emotions, relationships, and behaviour, and learn strategies for healing and growth through expert-led discussions and exercises. **Where: Atta Galatta, 178, 5th Main Rd, Binnamangala, Hoysala Nagar, Indiranagar. When: April 27, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm**

03 RCB quiz

Join a high-energy celebration of cricket and fandom at the RCB Quiz, hosted by Navneeth Krishna and Neerav Ghosh. Bring your A-game, form your dream team, and let's make it a day to remember! **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. When: April 27, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

04 Dance tribute

Experience Thyagaraja Vaibhavam, a soulful Bharatanatyam performance by Raksha Karthik and her disciples, celebrating the life and music of Sadguru Thyagaraja Swamy **Where: Jayarama Seva Mandali, 8th Block, Jayanagar. When: April 27, 5.00 pm**

05 Fashion fiesta

Refresh your summer style with designer fashion, statement jewellery, luxury home décor, and more at Hi Life Exhibition's exclusive showcase. **Where: The Lalit Ashok; When: May 2, 3, and 4**

Coffee profits drive Chikkamagaluru's luxury car boom

Rising coffee prices enable farmers to upgrade to luxury vehicles, transforming the region's economy and lifestyle

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

A surge in rural prosperity is fueling a new wave of luxury spending across India's coffee heartlands

With coffee and black pepper prices touching historic highs, coffee country is witnessing a luxury vehicle boom. In just the past six months, a staggering 5,777 new vehicles have been registered in Chikkamagaluru district — many of them high-end cars, signalling a shift in lifestyle for several growers. While black pepper prices have remained steady at ₹60,000 to ₹75,000 per quintal — similar to last year — coffee prices have surged unexpectedly. Last year, a 50-kg bag of coffee fetched under ₹15,000. This season, rates started at ₹17,000 and soared to ₹29,000 per bag, far exceeding farmer expectations. The sudden windfall has allowed farmers not only to meet agricultural needs but also to indulge in luxury spending. Farmers who once lamented poor yields and low market rates are now upgrading their lives — and their garages.

The Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Chikkamagaluru has seen a sharp rise in registrations of luxury vehicles. These include one BMW worth ₹32.43 lakh, three Mercedes-Benz cars collectively worth ₹73.29 lakh, 40 Mahindra 2-700s priced between ₹14–25 lakh, 35 Skoda cars worth ₹13.65 lakh each, and 43 Toyota Innovas valued at ₹24.65 lakh apiece — totalling 1,364 cars.

Cars include one BMW worth ₹32.43 lakh, three Mercedes-Benz carscollectively worth Rs 73.29 lakh, 40 Mahindra 2-700s priced between Rs 14–25 lakh

Beyond cars, the district has recorded 3,330 motorbikes, 50 mopeds, 224 tractors, 422 goods carriers, 79 cabs, six buses, 153 three-wheeler passenger vehicles, 23 three-wheeler goods vehicles, and 10 rental bikes — all registered in just half a year. Total vehicle registrations for the year are expected to cross 13,000, with cars alone accounting for over 3,000.

RTO officer Rakesh Kumar urged the public to avoid middlemen when registering their vehicles. "Everything is available online. If there's confusion, people can contact us directly," he said, noting that staff have been instructed to ensure smooth and transparent operations. Coffee isn't just perking up cups — it's revving up engines across the Malnad region, as farmers ride a wave of prosperity unlike anything seen in recent years.

Lawyer's mysterious death: Murder suspected, witness dies by suicide

A 26-year-old woman identified as Ramya, who had completed her LLB, was found dead in a shed in Srinivasapuram Colony, Nelamangala Taluk, on Thursday. Hours later, her brother Puneet ended his life at his home, upon seeing her body. Police have been investigating this case.

Soon after discovering her body, Puneeth, unable to bear the shock, died by suicide at his rented house in Benaka Layout, Kempalinganahalli.

In complaint, family members alleged harassment by one Dinesh and his family from the Vokkaliga community, which they said led to the deaths. Voice messages from Puneet blaming Dinesh have surfaced. Cases under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Section 108 of BNS have been registered at Nelamangala Police Station. Investigation is ongoing.

Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba has directed the police to register a case and probe the circumstances surrounding Ramya's death. Preliminary reports link a businessman named Dinesh from Basavanahalli to the case. Dinesh, a granite trader, reportedly became acquainted with Ramya's family. Following their acquaintance, several mysterious events unfolded, leading Ramya's family to accuse Dinesh and his family of being responsible for her death.

The situation has become more complicated with Puneeth's death, as he was believed to be a key witness. A special team has been formed to trace Dinesh, who is currently absconding. **— BMB**

Ramaiah Memorial Hospital commemorates World Parkinson's Awareness Month

Ramaiah Memorial Hospitalcommemorated World Parkinson's Awareness Month today by organising the TULIPS & SPARKS – THE SOLIDARITY WALK at Ramaiah Campus with the participation of 50+ PD warriors, their brave heart caregivers, physicians and other hospital staff. The Solidarity Walk aimed to raise awareness about Parkinson's disorder that afflicts more than 7 million Indians as per a Lancet Study. The short yet effective 250-metre walk was followed by a sumptuous breakfast and insightful health talks by Neurologist, Neurosurgeon, Physiotherapist, Speech & Swallow Therapist and a trained PD nurse. These health talks focused on the different aspects of managing Parkinson's disease. The event was

thoughtfully themed using tulips and sparks, the two symbols that describe the two aspects of the disorder – living with hope while experiencing a sudden jolt in the brain. **— BMB**

App-based autos overcharge riders

Even as discussions on revising auto rickshaw fares are underway, app-based aggregator services have already hiked their rates, burdening commuters. With bus fares and other costs rising, citizens are already feeling the pinch — and now auto fares are adding to their woes.

In Bengaluru, meetings led by the district administration have been held, and an official fare revision is expected soon. However, regular commuters have alleged that a few aggregator companies have jumped the gun, charging passengers inflated fares without waiting for government approval. Shockingly, transport department officials remain silent, taking no steps to regulate the pricing. Currently, the fixed fare is ₹30 for the first 2 km and ₹15 for each subsequent kilometre. Yet, a few app-based services are charging 40–50% higher than the prescribed rates. **— BMB**

Crackdown on unauthorised layouts

Despite the mandatory implementation of e-Khata to curb unauthorised layouts, negligence by some officials has allowed illegal constructions to continue, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said. He warned that the government would seize any unauthorized layouts henceforth, following strict directives from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to halt such illegal developments.

Minister stressed that construction of housing layouts must follow due legal process, including land use conversion and sanctioned plans, with e-Khatas issued only after proper approvals. He reiterated that Supreme Court orders also mandate stringent action against unauthorised layouts.

Further, the Minister said a state-wide phodi (land parcel sub-division) correction drive launched in January will be completed by the end of this year, benefiting farmers who have long struggled without proper land records despite government land grants. In cases where records remain pending due to unavoidable reasons, efforts will be made to complete them by next year. **— BMB**

Universities to be tagged, not graded

NAAC plans to introduce a new accreditation system to encourage more universities to seek certification; professors believe it will boost participation while stressing need to maintain standards

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) plans to introduce binary accreditation to encourage more universities to seek accreditation, according to Chairman, Professor Anil Sahasrabudhe. Under this system, universities will receive a tag indicating whether they are accredited or not, rather than a ranking. This initiative aims to motivate institutions to apply for NAAC accreditation, which many universities avoid due to limited resources and the fear of receiving a poor rank, officials stated.

"We are in the process of starting binary accreditation, under which universities will only receive a tag instead of a grade. Fearing a poor grade, many universities do not apply for accreditation, as it is not suitable for the university to showcase a poor grade on its website. Under the binary accreditation system, more universities will be encouraged to apply for basic accreditation, which will serve as a minimum level of quality check," said Prof Sahasrabudhe, who was in Jaipur on Saturday to address the convocation ceremony of Manipal University.

He noted that once an institute has basic accreditation, it can apply for a maturity-based graded level of NAAC and seek a higher level of accreditation. "Different parameters will be set for every level of accreditation, depending on the facilities available and advancements made," added Prof. Sahasrabudhe.

Reacting to this, a college professor said, "I welcome NAAC's initiative to introduce binary accreditation for universities. This approach addresses a critical barrier many institutions face: the reluctance to seek accreditation due to the fear of receiving a poor grade. By shifting the focus from rankings to a simple accredited/non-accredited tag, the NAAC is likely to encourage more universities, particularly those with limited resources, to pursue accreditation without the anxiety of being publicly labelled as subpar. This change has the potential to elevate the overall quality of higher education in India. By motivating institutions to apply for basic accreditation, we can foster a culture of continuous improvement. Institutions that achieve basic accreditation will have the opportunity to apply for higher levels of accreditation later, setting a foundation for quality enhancement."

Another college professor said, "However, while this binary system is a positive step, it is essential to ensure that the parameters for basic accreditation are rigorous enough to maintain educational standards. Quality should never be compromised for the sake of accessibility. Universities must strive for excellence, and accreditation should serve as a tool for accountability and improvement, rather than merely a box to check."

New innovation hub at BCU

Dr MC Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, inaugurated the Wolverhampton-Bangalore Research and Innovation Centre at Bangalore City University (BCU)'s new academic block.

The centre is a joint effort between BCU and the University of Wolverhampton in the UK. Speaking at the event, Dr Sudhakar praised the initiative and said it would create new academic and research opportunities for students. He also stressed the government's commitment to strengthening higher education and research in public universities. Professor Suresh Renukappa, Director of the Centre, spoke about its focus areas during his opening address.

He said the centre would work on important topics such as climate resilience, healthcare, smart cities.

Double gold in Ayurveda studies

Dr Sarada MK, a post-graduate student from Government Ayurveda Medical College, Mysuru, has secured the gold medal in MD (Ayurveda Samhita and Siddhanta) at the annual examination conducted by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru, in March 2025. Earlier, she had also clinched a gold medal during her BAMS course at Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute of Ayurveda and Hospital, Bengaluru.

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Committee cracks down on sewage flow into bird reserve

Authorities order urgent penalties, infrastructure upgrades, and sewage diversions to better protect the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve ecosystem

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

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The committee overseeing the improvement of the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve has directed the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to immediately issue notices and impose penalties on all properties discharging untreated sewage into the stormwater drain in the area. Comprising officials from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Department of Forest, Environment and Ecology, Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA), KSPCB, and other stakeholders, the committee recently met to devise measures aimed at reviving the lake ecosystem and preventing the inflow of sewage into the water body.

The committee has mandated imposing penalties and ensuring the prevention of sewage discharge from apartments and industries in the catchment area within the next 60 days.

To further safeguard the lake ecosystem, the committee instructed BBMP to provide trash barriers, silt traps, and other necessary arrangements to allow only clear rainwater to flow into the lake. BBMP, notably, has been installing 1,600 mm diameter RCC pipelines over a stretch of 600 meters to carry rainwater mixed with sewage from areas lacking underground drainage (UGD) systems. The BBMP has been directed to complete this pipeline work within 45 days. In addition, BWSSB is laying a sewage pipeline along the lake bund walkway to divert sewage from Ananthapura to the Yelahanka Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). The board has been asked to expedite this work and complete the UGD pipeline network in the missing areas of the Puttenahalli lake catchment within the next year.

The Yelahanka Taluk Panchayath, Ganteganahalli Village Panchayath, and Ramagondanahalli Village Panchayath have been directed to immediately act to stop sewage discharge from Panchayath limits into the stormwater drain and to submit an action plan accordingly.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has also been instructed to prioritise the completion of sewage networks and STP works in its layouts within the catchment to help arrest sewage inflow into the lake.

"Protecting the Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve is not just about conserving a lake, but about safeguarding an entire ecosystem. Strict action against sewage inflow is crucial for its revival – Senior official from the committee overseeing the project

In May last year, the western boundary of the lake was breached, resulting in untreated sewage entering the bird reserve from an overflowing stormwater drain. Although the forest department attempted to block the inflow using sandbags, local interference compromised the efforts, allowing raw sewage into the lake. Following the breach, the Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust filed an application with the National Green Tribunal, which directed BBMP and BWSSB to ensure that no sewage entered the reserve and restrained BBMP from laying pipelines inside the lake premises.

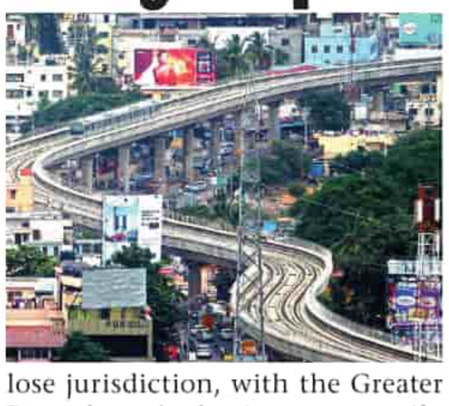
Electronic City to Harohalli: new city map includes outskirts

Number of corporations not clarified, but all will have Bengaluru prefixed in their names

Although the exact number of new corporations to be created from the existing BBMP remains unclear, it is confirmed that all new corporations will have Bengaluru as a prefix in their names. Bengaluru, with a current population of around 15 million, is set to see the formation of multiple municipal corporations, each expected to serve approximately 3 million people. Proposed names include "Bengaluru Central City Corporation," "Bengaluru North City Corporation," "Bengaluru South City Corporation," "Bengaluru East City Corporation," and "Bengaluru West City Corporation."

Initially, there was consideration for creating just three corporations. However, given the city's growing expanse, officials have opted for a larger number of smaller corporations. Each corporation will be required to have a minimum population of 1 million, a density of at least 5,000 people per square kilometer, and an annual revenue of no less than ₹300 crore. Additionally, designated corporation areas must feature a significant proportion of non-agricultural employment.

The government is expected to issue a draft notification soon, allowing a 30-day period for objections before releasing the final notification. Once finalised, BBMP and the affected gram panchayats will



lose jurisdiction, with the Greater Bengaluru Authority temporarily managing operations until the new municipalities are fully established.

The new boundaries of Greater Bengaluru will incorporate major peripheral areas such as Electronic City, Attibele, Jigani, Bommasandra, Sarjapur, Bagalur, Rajanakunte, Hesaraghatta, Dasanapura, Makali, Tavarekere, Kumbalagodu, Kaggalipura, and Harohalli.

Sources indicated that the Greater Bengaluru region is poised to nearly double in size, expanding to approximately 1,050 square kilometers, up from BBMP's current area of 708 square kilometers. This expansion will bring industrial zones and suburban developments into the municipal fold, contributing significantly to revenue growth.

The BBMP Restructuring Committee (Brand Bengaluru Committee) has proposed creating five corporations, each covering two zones and comprising around 400 wards in total, with 80 wards per corporation. However, officials hinted that the final boundaries of Greater Bengaluru may exceed initial estimates, further integrating urban districts and newly formed suburban cities to accelerate development across both urban and rural regions. **— BMB**

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BM Impact

Malleshpalya

Despite multiple complaints, street lights remained on throughout the day on 7th Main, Malleshpalya. However, once the issue was reported in the Mirror, it was rectified the same day.

Road hazard

Basavanagudi

A half-cut pipe in the middle of Krishna Rajendra Road, Tata Silk Farm, Basavanagudi, is making it difficult for vehicles to navigate, especially at night.

Waterlogging

KG Halli

Stagnant sanitary water has accumulated in front of a house at 4th D Cross, Gandhinagar 2nd Stage, Shampura, KG Halli, behind a petrol bunk, due to ongoing drainage construction work.

Wasted effort: 2 years & waiting for action

Tribunal warns BBMP, KSPCB, and BWSSB of legal action for failing to submit action-taken reports on Chikkanagamangala waste plant, after residents protest pollution and health hazards

(File photo) Plant closure sought over health risks

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has warned Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) officials of legal action due to non-compliance with its order.

This is after the agencies have failed to submit an action taken report on BBMP's Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) plant located near Chikkanagamangala, despite several directions issued by the tribunal over the past two years.

"Despite several directions, none of the departments have given the details regarding the action taken or to be taken in compliance with the final order passed. We direct the Commissioner – Bengaluru Urban, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Karnataka SPCB, and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to file their independent report as to the action taken. If the directions given are not complied with, the matter will be viewed seriously and the officials will be penalised as per law," rapped the southern bench of the Tribunal.

Notably, the Green Court had filed a suo motu case after residents of Chikkanagamangala, Doddanagamangala, and other villages around the plant staged a protest in August 2022 against pollution caused by it, mainly due to leachate transportation.

The residents had alleged that the waste generated from the plant was being dumped in the open, leading to unbearable stench, and demanded that BBMP shut down the plant altogether as it is a health hazard in the area.

The protest and the issues faced by the residents were highlighted by Bangalore Mirror through an article published on August 18, 2022.

Following the article, the Principal bench of NGT registered a case in September of the same year and sent notices to seven government officials and agencies, namely the District Collector of Bengaluru, Chikkanagamangala Grama Panchayat, Regional Director

Residents allege that waste from the plant was dumped openly, causing unbearable stench

of MoEF&CC, Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and the regional director of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in this regard.

The tribunal, after finding the state of affairs unsatisfactory, ordered the formulation of a Joint Committee comprising the Regional Director of CPCB, the Regional Officer of MoEF&CC, and the KSPCB to look into the matter and take remedial action. The report was directed to be submitted within two months.

However, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) submitted a report on measures being taken to control pollution from the plant, after dilly-dallying for more than two years. In the report, BSWML informed the Tribunal that there was no flow of leachate into Chikkanagamangala Lake, one of the major causes of concerns of the residents.

Court protects IAF officer in road row

Karnataka High Court has restrained the Bengaluru city police from initiating any coercive steps against Indian Air Force Wing Commander Shiladitya Bose in connection with a road rage case. The interim direction was issued by Justice Hemant Chandangoudar on April 24, following a petition filed by the officer challenging the FIR lodged against him.

The incident took place near CV Raman Nagar on 21 April. Initially, the police registered an FIR based on a complaint lodged by Bose, alleging he was assaulted by Vikas Kumar SJ, a call centre employee. Subsequently, a counter-complaint was lodged by Kumar, leading to a second FIR being registered against the IAF officer.

In its interim order, the court instructed the police not to take any coercive steps against Bose without adhering to legal procedure. It also directed that the chargesheet in the case should not be filed without the court's prior permission. —BMB

Man arrested for assaulting ex-tenant

A 41-year-old software engineer and house owner has been arrested for allegedly assaulting his 21-year-old tenant and her male friend with a paper cutter near Deve Gowda petrol bunk in Banashankari.

According to the police, the student had previously rented a house owned by the accused, Srikant. Despite being married, he allegedly harassed her and pressured her to reciprocate his feelings. When the harassment continued, the student informed Srikant's wife and approached the Basaveshwaranagar police. No case was registered at the time, and the police issued only a warning. Following the incident, the student moved out.

According to the victim's complaint, on April 8, while the student and her male friend were waiting at a bus stop near Deve Gowda petrol bunk, Srikant approached them, confronted them, and then assaulted the duo with a paper cutter before fleeing the scene. —BMB

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No hop in sight: Experts raise alarm over dip in frog population

Over 40% of species of amphibians that are crucial for pest control, biodiversity and ecosystem stability are facing extinction

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Countries with the highest number of frogs include:
India: **1,175**
Brazil: **832**
China: **688**
Mexico: **672**
Colombia: **604**
Indonesia: **393**
Venezuela: **365**

In a stark warning to future generations, experts are urging for the conservation of frogs, which play a crucial role in maintaining the natural balance of ecosystems. Without proper action, we risk an environment that is unsafe and uninhabitable for both humans and wildlife. Frogs, as amphibians, are vital for soil health, maintaining the food chain, and supporting biodiversity. They help control harmful pests and are essential to the survival of many species within the food web.

Every year, from April 20 to 28, "World Frog Day" is observed to raise awareness about the importance of frog conservation and the urgent need for protective measures. The event aims to educate the global population about the crucial role frogs play in sustaining ecosystems.

Globally, there are 5,877 known amphibian species, including frogs, divided into three major groups: Anura (frogs and toads) with 7,825 species, Salamanders with 827 species, and Caecilians with 225 species. New species continue to be discovered every year.

In India, over 400 frog species have been identified, with more than 147 species recorded in the Western Ghats alone, said Satyadev, a conservation expert. However, around 41% of frog species approximately 3,400 globally are now facing extinction, and over a thousand species have already vanished due to human activities and environmental degradation. Frogs, which have existed on Earth for over 360 million years, have witnessed far more of the planet's history than humans, who have been around for just 300,000 years, he noted.

The alarming decline in frog populations is attributed to several factors. Deforestation leads to habitat destruction, drying up water bodies and depleting freshwater sources. Chemical pollution from pesticides and fertilizers contaminates water, while diseases like chytridiomycosis are spreading among amphibians, weakening their numbers. Human negligence, such as overexploitation and the disruption of food chains, further exacerbates their decline.

> **"In India, over 400 frog species have been identified... globally, approximately 41% of frog species (around 3,400 species) are facing extinction**
> – Satyadev, expert

Additionally, climate change is raising global temperatures and causing prolonged droughts, making survival increasingly difficult for these sensitive creatures.

Frogs play a critical role in ecosystem conservation. They naturally regulate pest populations and serve as prey for a variety of birds, snakes, and other predators, maintaining the balance of food webs. As bio indicators, frogs are particularly sensitive to environmental changes, detecting chemical pollutants, temperature shifts, and the spread of diseases. Their skin also contains compounds that have potential medicinal benefits, including anti-cancer properties, making them even more valuable to both nature and human health.

Frogs possess fascinating characteristics that enable them to thrive in diverse environments. They breathe through both their lungs and moist skin, allowing survival in aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Their powerful hind legs make them exceptional jumpers, aiding movement across various terrains. Each species has unique calls, mainly used for attracting mates, which are vital for reproduction.

In 2024, an international amphibian conference held in Borneo, Malaysia, brought together experts from around the world to discuss the role of frogs in ecosystems, the threats they face from human activities, and the urgent need for global conservation efforts.

IN BRIEF

Ranya's bail rejected

The Karnataka High Court on Saturday dismissed the bail pleas of actress Ranya Rao and co-accused Tarun Raju in the gold smuggling case. Justice Savanur Vishwajith Shetty headed the bench that passed the order. Rao, the stepdaughter of a DGP who was sent on compulsory leave, now faces detention for a year as the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA), has been invoked against her. The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), under the Ministry of Finance, invoked the Act based on a recommendation from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), which is investigating the case. Officials said the Act was applied to prevent the accused from resuming smuggling activities and for their non-cooperation. Co-accused Tarun Raju and Sahil Sakaria Jain have also been booked under COFEPOSA. — BMB

ED recovers ₹2.25 crore

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) recovered Rs 2.25 crore in unaccounted cash from the residence of 33-year-old Aishwarya Gowda, an alleged con woman arrested for money laundering, officials said on Saturday. Gowda allegedly posed as the sister of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and former MP DK Suresh to blackmail jewellers and businesses. She was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and remanded to 14-day ED custody by the Special PMLA Court. The ED also searched 14 locations linked to Gowda and her aides, seizing incriminating documents, digital devices, and cash. The probe stems from multiple FIRs accusing Gowda, her husband Harish KN, and others of duping investors by promising high returns. She also allegedly duped a jeweller of ₹9.82 crore. — BMB

Karnataka's 108 Pakistani nationals face deportation under new directive

Following Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive to states to identify and deport Pakistani nationals residing in India, anxiety has gripped those settled in Karnataka.

Currently, 108 Pakistani nationals live in the state, of whom 88 are married to Indian citizens, raising questions about their future. Many had arrived on Long-Term Visas (LTVs) and married locals, periodically renewing their stay permits. While Hindus from Pakistan holding LTVs are generally given exemptions, the fate of those settled for decades remains uncertain.

Police sources said 13 Pakistani nationals have been arrested in Karnataka for terrorism-related and other criminal cases. They are currently lodged in Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara and Belagavi Central Prisons. Since court trials are pending against them, immediate deportation is not possible.

The state police, along with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), have launched an operation to trace Pakistani nationals who entered India on tourist and medical visas. Officials said several of these visitors will soon be deported following Central government orders.

Of the 108 residents, 40 are based in Bengaluru's Basavanagudi, 14 in Bhatkal (Uttara Kannada), while others are spread across Mysuru, Mangaluru, and different parts of Karnataka. Authorities confirmed all had been legally granted LTVs when they arrived.

Meanwhile, four to five Pakistani nationals who had entered Karnataka on short-term visas have been traced, and deportation proceedings against them are underway, officials added. — BMB

Action will be taken to deport Pakistani nationals: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated that, following the directions of the Central Government, information is being collected about Pakistani nationals who may be residing in Karnataka, and steps will be taken to deport them. Speaking to the media in Mysuru on Saturday, he said, "Information is being gathered regarding the number of Pakistanis in various cities across the state, and particularly noted the higher concentration of Pakistanis in Bengaluru."

Condolence meet Indian Institute of Science (IISc) community came together on Friday night to mourn the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. The condolence gathering occurred at the institute's iconic Main Building drawing a crowd of nearly 700 students, faculty, alumni, and staff

THE SUNDAY READ

Petty is pretty precious

One might be familiar with vehicle thefts, house break-ins, and gold heists. But in 2025, Bengaluru witnessed unusual crime where seemingly trivial yet unsecured items were vanishing, thanks to thieves with an eye for the unusual. Nothing seems off-limits, from human hair and cattle dung to luxury watches, milk packets, and even entire bus stands.

According to the DCP (Deputy Commissioner of Police) Saidulu Adavath (North Division), "There are thefts involving livestock, such as pigs, especially these days. Usually, theft cases, from gold heists to petty cases, are often committed by individuals, and their primary motive behind such acts is usually money. When it comes to petty cases, it's more often related to personal consumption. While these garment theft, cattle theft, and milk theft may be considered as petty crimes, they are thefts nonetheless. We've also seen cases where people steal from bakeries and tea shops, items like cigarettes worth Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000."

—Sanjana CS

Milk thieves on the moo-ve

Rising milk prices led to an unusual crime, a milk packet theft trend, especially during early morning hours when deliveries are left unattended. Incidents across areas like Kamakshipalya, Indiranagar, and near Konanakunte Metro Station involve scooter-borne thieves stealing from booths and residential doorsteps. Despite clear CCTV footage in some cases, many such thefts go unreported. Police officials urge that even minor thefts should be reported for prompt action, as no official complaints have been filed yet.

Pigs fly off the shelves

In a strange spree ahead of Ugadi, over 100 pigs were stolen from sheds in rural Bengaluru in just one week, raising alarms about an organised gang catering to the surge in pork demand during Hosa Todaku. The gang, using a mini-truck, strikes remote sheds at night, disabling CCTVs before fleeing. Thefts in Binnamangala and Byrasandra alone caused losses worth lakhs, with stolen pigs valued between Rs 15,000– Rs 20,000 each.

Cable guys strike

Other unusual thefts, including power cables from Namma Metro, were stolen for their metal. Between October 2023 and January 2024, BMRCL filed more than 100 complaints over missing copper wires and conductors, leaving authorities baffled and facing unexpected infrastructure losses. Theft of electrical equipment like poles, transformers, and copper wires in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) has disrupted housing projects. Similar cable thefts have hit Namma Metro tracks, especially between Baiyappanahalli and Swami Vivekananda stations, and even Kempegowda Airport, severely impacting infrastructure, utilities, and ongoing urban development.

Who moved my shoe from the rack?

In 2025, Bengaluru saw another odd crime trend, slipper and shoe thefts creeping through residential lanes. In April, a case was reported where even CCTV cameras captured quirky culprits, including one monkey-cap-wearing thief in Ayyappa Nagar, caught red-handed stealing footwear. Not just stealing slippers, in Bandepalya, a stolen house key from a shoe rack led to a full-blown burglary.

Trucks, cars stripped

Imagine rushing to work, only to be stunned by the sight of your car propped up on bricks—its tyres and alloy wheels missing. JP Nagar police recently arrested two suspects, Hyder Ali and G Wasim, who were targeting parked vehicles, recovering 68 stolen wheels and solving 20 cases across multiple localities. The duo posed as mechanics, using a van to steal wheels unnoticed. Their tactic worked well, as most bystanders assumed they were repairing the vehicle, not robbing it. According to police officials, alloy wheels are stolen for their high resale value, stylish look, lightweight build, and popularity among car enthusiasts. Apart from this, they also steal music sound boxes from cars and trucks, and batteries.

Poop pilferers

In a bizarre trend, though Bengaluru has not reported cases of cattle dung theft, according to sources, it is a very common theft that happens daily, it is driven by its rising demand in organic farming, biogas production, and traditional uses. Often stolen from farms or sheds, cow dung is now seen as "brown gold," with thieves selling it for profit in eco-conscious markets and villages.

Police officials say, " Although a few cases have been brought to the police's attention, many quietly slipped through the cracks, seen as petty and remain unreported, resulting in limited action from the police officials."

Hair today, gone tomorrow

In a theft that left many scratching their heads, a gang absconded with 830 kilograms of human hair valued at nearly Rs1 crore from a godown in Lakshmipura Cross. The Soladevanahalli

police have arrested a suspect, Yallappa Gollar, and recovered 300 kilograms valued at Rs18 lakh. The gang broke in during the early hours of March 1, targeting the hair due to its high resale and export value, which ranges between Rs 6,000 and Rs 7,000 per kilogram. The hair, destined for export to countries like China, Burma, and Hong Kong, was meticulously packed and ready for shipment. Police are continuing their search for the remaining five accused.

Luxury timepieces, gone in a tick

At Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport and bus stands, suspects are timing their moves to steal watches. Luxury watches are vanishing from the airport and the bus stand duty-free store. On January 13, a Brazilian national, Ravi Gama Disa, was caught stealing two premium timepieces worth over Rs 3.3 lakh from the Ethos Summit store at Terminal 2, with CCTV footage sealing his fate. Meanwhile, in a bizarre twist, bus stands across the city are also mysteriously disappearing, reportedly stolen for their metal value.

Lingerie missing

In March, Bengaluru Police arrested a 25-year-old engineering graduate, Sharath, who was arrested in Tumkur for allegedly stealing women's inner garments from balconies after female students reported repeated incidents. CCTV footage captured him committing the thefts, and he confessed to similar acts elsewhere, reportedly driven by an addiction to explicit content. Released on bail with a warning, his family was unaware. Bengaluru police note that garment theft, while varied in motive (petty theft, sexual gratification, or resale), can indicate deeper psychological issues, unlike organised theft of high-value items like silk sarees.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I SHRUTKIRTHI SHASHIKANT GODKHINDI D/O GODKHINDI SHASHIKANT MALHARRAO resident of No. 1590, 6th Main, E Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Near Madhuloka, Bengaluru-560010. I have changed my name from SHRUTKIRTHI SHASHIKANT GODKHINDI AKA GODKHANDI (Old Name) to SHRUTKIRTHI SHASHIKANT GODKHINDI (New Name) vide Affidavit dated 25/04/2025 before Notary S N Madhu Bengaluru.

I, CHANDRA SHEKARA M residing at Guttahalli village, Bommekallu Post, Kaivara Hobli, Chintamani Taluk, Chikkaballapur-563128. I have changed my name to CHANDRASHEKAR M. Vide affidavit dated 26/04/2025 sworn before notary. KODI NAGAPPAYA Bangalore

I, K G Deepak R/o # Kaustnuba 6th Main KNS Layout Shanka - rapuram BH Rd Tumkur 572102 have changed my minor Son name from Yashovardhan Deepak Komarla to Yashovardhan Deepak Komarlu for all purposes.

I, Adarsh M S R/O 338, 19th mn Nandini Layout B'lore 96. Have changed my minor Daughter's name Anvitha Adarsh to Anvitha A Bharadwaj for all future purposes.

I, Smitha Manjunatha w/o Manjunatha D, R/o No-1849, Narmada nilaya, 7th Cross, Subhash Nagar, Mandya-571401 have changed my name to Smitha M K for all Purposes.

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IPL 2025: With optimism on a high, DC and RCB set to face-off in a high-stakes showdown

High spirits and optimistic anticipation will dominate the mood around the Arun Jaitley Stadium as Delhi Capitals (DC) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) face-off in a high-stakes IPL 2025 showdown on Sunday evening.

Both teams have a well-rounded look and that reflects from them having 12 points each – though DC are ahead of RCB on the basis of net run rate and having one defeat less than them. RCB have won six of their ten meetings against DC in New Delhi, both teams are literally neck to neck in how they have gone about their business in batting and bowling.

RCB players during a practice session at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday

As per statistics from Cricket-21, RCB have a better strike-rate (161) and run-rate (9.7) in batting powerplay as compared to DC (155 and 9.3 respectively), thanks in large to Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal being in great form. But when it comes to batting in middle and death overs, DC have the upper hand.

With the firepower of KL Rahul, Axar Patel, Tristan Stubbs and Ashutosh Sharma, DC have a strike-rate of 152, and run-rate of 9.1 in middle overs, which is more than what RCB have in that phase (139 and 8.3 respectively). In the last five overs, DC's strike-rate is a massive 205 and run-rate at 12.3, which is again more than RCB's numbers (190 and 11.4 respectively).

When the last time these two teams met at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Rahul's 93 not out and an unbeaten 38 from Stubbs lifted DC out of trouble after losing three wickets in the powerplay and put them on the path to an astonishing victory.

With some purchase on offer for spinners at Kotla, which has a fast outfield and smaller dimensions, DC will bank on their firepower in the middle if they are to outclass RCB's top-order batting might. In terms of bowling, it is very much the same story with little adjustments. RCB have a better economy rate (8.3) and picked more wickets (15) than DC (9.8 economy rate and 12 scalps) in the powerplay. Though RCB have picked 23 wickets in middle overs, which is one more than DC, the hosts' have a better economy rate (8.5) as compared to the visitors' (8.8).

In death overs, again RCB (17) has more scalps than DC (14), but the hosts' have a better economy rate (9.5) as compared to visitors (10). Who knows that in a run-fest, the result of Sunday's game will be decided by how the bowlers fare.

DC have been blessed by Axar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mitchell Starc and Vipraj Nigam holding their own in crucial situations while RCB have the services of Josh Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma to capitalise on their recent joy of the first home win of this season.

When RCB landed at Delhi airport ahead of their game against DC, fans were quick to swarm the exit area and chant local lad Kohli's name. The talismanic batter, who has six IPL fifties at his home venue, will again be the centre of attention on Sunday.

It remains to be seen if love and support for Kohli will upstage the new-found admiration in Delhi's cricket fans for Rahul, who left RCB and Chinnaswamy, stunned with a mesmerising batting display and an animated 'this is my ground' celebration. The DC-RCB showdown in New Delhi has all the ingredients to be a nail-biter, as both teams are nearly evenly matched in batting and bowling statistics.

WHEN: Sunday, April 27 at 7:30 pm IST
Where: Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi

Sacred thread row: PIL filed in High Court

The Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasangh filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Karnataka High Court on Saturday, condemning the removal of sacred threads from students during the Common Entrance Test (CET).

The organisation has also demanded that a re-examination be conducted. The High Court has accepted the petition and will hear the PIL on June 9.

Senior counsel S Sriranga, arguing in favour of the petition, submitted that several incidents of sacred threads being removed from students during exams have been reported across the state.

He argued that this unconstitutional act has infringed upon the rights of the students.

The incident was reported on April 16, when the CET, a state-level entrance exam conducted by the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) for admissions to various undergraduate courses, including engineering, medical, and dental programmes.

Incidents of students not being allowed to exam centres were reported from Shivamogga, Bidar and Dharwad cities.

The sacred threads were cut before allowing the students to write the exam.

In Bidar, the authorities denied permission to allow a student to write the CET exam, after he refused to take out the sacred thread.

Notably, the Congress-led government in Karnataka has apologised for the issues and given orders to suspend the Pre-University College Principal and staff.

The government has also promised that the student, who was denied permission to appear for the exam, would be given justice. **Agencies**

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DON'T MISS VISIT ONCE

City on the chock-a-block

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

surged by a staggering 6,000%. Back then, there were just 150 vehicles for every 1,000 people. Today, that number has jumped to approximately 857 vehicles per 1,000 residents, signaling an overwhelming dependence on private transport and mounting stress on an already overstretched infrastructure.

Vinod Jacob, general manager of the Namma Bengaluru Foundation, called the situation a tipping point. "A city with vehicle numbers rivaling its human population cannot function unless we reinvent mobility," he said. To reverse this, Jacob advocates urgent intervention suggesting the city must promote affordable, accessible, and reliable public transport.

While projects like the Metro, suburban rail, and more BMTC buses show promise, progress has been slow. Citizens are open to shifting, if services are predictable and well-connected. Parking chaos is worsened by unverified vehicle registrations. A city-wide, multi-modal system via PPP model (Public-Private Partnerships) and smart interchanges is essential, experts said, adding that IT parks must discourage free parking and adopt staggered work hours to reduce peak traffic.

Urban mobility expert Ashish Verma, Professor of Transportation System Engineering, at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) echoed similar concerns, arguing that the crisis stems from a flawed, road-centric approach to urban planning. Urban mobility is a complex issue but it is a simple one, says Verma. He pointed out that government bodies and agencies like the BBMP tend to view the problem narrowly—focusing only on expanding road infrastructure.

"With the assumption that more vehicles mean the need for more roads, they push for flyovers, tunnels, and double-decker roads. But this only deepens the vicious cycle of congestion," he said.

Verma, a longtime Bengaluru resident, highlighted the stagnation in the city's public transport capacity. "The number of buses has barely increased, even as the population has increased. Crowded and unreliable buses push more people towards private vehicles."

He pointed to repeated delays in metro projects, such as the Yellow Line, initially scheduled to open in January but now postponed multiple times with limited services expected even upon launch. He contrasted this with cities like Paris, London where metro services run every 1.5 minutes, while Bengaluru averages a five-minute wait.

Such frequent and reliable connectivity is essential for encouraging people to shift to public transport, he said.

"Even if you get a good salary and can afford a car, what's the point if you spend hours stuck in traffic? That's not a good quality of life in a congested urban environment," he added.

Congested roads

Last week underscored the depth of the city's mobility crisis. Metro services were scaled down on Ambedkar Jayanti, leading to massive overcrowding at Majestic station during peak hours. Simultaneously, the Outer Ring Road choked under the dual burden of overnight rain and ongoing metro construction near Kadubeesanahalli and Karthik Nagar. Bellandur saw severe waterlogging, bringing traffic to a halt.

Meanwhile, the much-hyped Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway faced hours-long traffic snarls, particularly on Sunday evenings. Elevated roads and increased police presence proved insufficient as areas like Indiranagar, Whitefield, and the CBD witnessed paralyzing slowdowns. Viral social media posts captured the chaos, with citizens blaming poor civic coordination and inadequate planning.

Amid this backdrop, all eyes are on the government's ambitious ₹73,600-crore mobility infrastructure plan. While the initiative signals political intent and much-needed investment, many remain skeptical of its effectiveness.

Crash test dummies

Tesla could benefit the most from new rules on reporting of self-driving car crashes

Rule changes announced by the Trump administration this week could allow automakers to report fewer crashes involving self-driving cars, with Tesla potentially emerging as the main beneficiary.

The Transportation Department announced Thursday that it will no longer require automakers to report certain kinds of non-fatal crashes — but the exception will apply only to partial self-driving vehicles using so-called Level 2 systems, the kind Tesla deploys. Tesla CEO Elon Musk had complained the old reporting rules cast his company in a bad light.

If Tesla and other automakers are required to report fewer crashes into a national database, that could make it more difficult for regulators to catch equipment defects and for the public to access information about a company's overall safety, auto industry analysts say. It will also allow Tesla to trumpet a cleaner record to sell more cars.

"This will significantly reduce the number of crashes reported by Tesla," said auto analyst Sam Abuelsamid at Telemetry Insight. Added Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities, noting that Tesla rival Waymo won't get an exception, "This is a win for Tesla, a loss for Waymo."

Tesla stock soared nearly 10% Friday on the rule changes. Wall Street analysts, and Musk critics, have said that Musk's role as an adviser to President Donald Trump could put Tesla in position to benefit from any changes to regulations involving self-driving cars.

Other car makers such as Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru and BMW make vehicles with Level 2 systems that help keep cars in lanes, change speed or brake automatically, but Tesla accounts for the vast majority on the road. Vehicles used by Waymo and others with systems that completely take over for the driver, called Automated Driving Systems, will not benefit from the change.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which enforces vehicle safety standards, said the new rules don't' favor one type of self-driving system over another, and that raft of changes it announced will help all self-driving automakers.

"No ADS company is hurt by these changes," the agency said in statement to The Associated Press, using the acronym for Automatic Driving System. It added that the changes also make sense, "With ADS, no driver is present meaning stronger safety protocols are needed."

Waymo declined to comment for this story. The AP reached out to Tesla but did not receive a reply.

Under the change, any Level 2 crash that is so bad it needs a tow truck to come will no longer be required to be reported if it doesn't result in death or injury or air-bag deployment. But if a tow t ruck is called for crashes of vehicles using ADS, it has to be reported.

Crash figures

The vast majority of partial self-driving vehicle crashes reported under the old NHTSA rules involved Teslas — more than 800 of a total 1,040 crashes in the past 12 months, according to an AP review of the data. It's unclear how many of those Tesla crashes required the vehicles to be towed because a column requesting that information in the database is mostly blank.

The relaxed crash rule was part of several changes described by the Transportation Department as a way to "streamline" paperwork and allow U.S. companies to better compete with the China in the race to make self-driving vehicles. The department said it would also move toward national self-driving regulations to replace a confusing patchwork of state rules. "We're in a race with China to out-innovate, and the stakes couldn't be higher," said Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy on Thursday. "Our new framework will slash red tape and move us closer to a single national standard."

Traffic safety watchdogs had feared that the Trump administration would eliminate the NHTSA reporting requirement completely.

The package of changes came days after Musk confirmed on a conference call with Tesla investors that the electric vehicle maker will begin a rollout of self-driving Tesla taxis in Austin, Texas, in June. Waymo, which is owned by Google parent Alphabet, already has cybercabs available in that city and several others.

Musk has argued that the previous reporting requirements were unfair since Tesla vehicles all use its partial self-driving systems and therefore log more miles than any other automaker with such technology. He says that his cars are far safer than most and save lives.

Tesla sales have plunged in recent month amid a backlash against Musk's backing of far-right politicians in Europe and his work in the U.S. as head of Trump's government cost-cutting group. The company has pinned its future on complete automation of its cars, but it is facing stiff competition now from rivals, especially China automaker BYD. **AP**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

FOUR-EYED STARE

Our reader shares a striking close-up of a four-eyed spider, locking eyes with the camera in a mesmerising moment. "A curious four-eyed spider locks eyes with the camera," they write, sharing the fascinating encounter that highlights nature's tiniest wonders.

The picture was clicked by reader **Moksha**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Bengaluru property owners urge BBMP to extend 5% tax rebate

Technical issues, SWM fee confusion fuel taxpayer frustration as April 30 deadline looms

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Many property owners across Bengaluru are urging the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to extend the 5% rebate on property tax payments by at least another month, beyond the current April 30 deadline. As per BBMP's current rules, the rebate is applicable only to those who clear their tax dues within the first month of the financial year April.

Residents argue that the BBMP property tax portal was inactive until April 5 due to technical glitches, leaving taxpayers with less time to make their payments. This, combined with confusion over the newly introduced Solid Waste Management (SWM) user fee, has created widespread frustration among citizens. "Why should we lose out on the rebate when the BBMP itself wasn't ready? We lost valuable days because the portal wasn't functioning," said Rajesh K, a property owner from JP Nagar.

SWM fee confusion , portal glitches spark rebate fears in city

Adding to the grievances, property owners have strongly objected to the SWM user fee structure. Many apartment residents report being charged individual SWM fees despite their communities managing waste independently through composting or authorized private vendors. Although exemptions have been promised to bulk waste generators, these are subject to physical inspections by BBMP officials at a later date, a process residents fear could lead to harassment and corruption. "Today, they are charging us twice individually and at the community level. Tomorrow, they might impose penalties after inspections. There's complete uncertainty," said Meenakshi R, a resident of Whitefield.

> **"Why should citizens lose out on the rebate when the BBMP itself wasn't ready?**
>
> — Rajesh K, resident of JP Nagar.

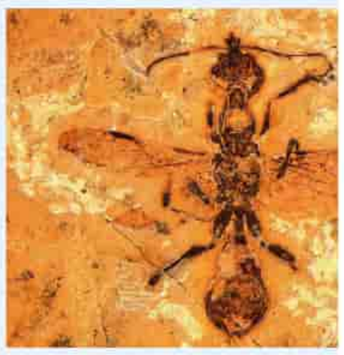
Citizen groups are demanding that BBMP scrap the new SWM fee structure for this financial year and revert to the earlier system of a flat cess of ₹360 per property. They argue that the sudden changes, poor communication, and lack of clarity have unfairly burdened honest taxpayers.

"In the middle of all this confusion, it is only fair that BBMP extends the rebate deadline by another month. Many of us are willing to pay promptly, but the process itself has become a hurdle," said Sanjay P, a resident of Malleswaram.

Activists believe extending the deadline would help ease taxpayer grievances and restore some goodwill towards BBMP. With the end of April fast approaching, property owners are hoping for a quick and favourable response.

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists have discovered the fossilized remains of the oldest-known ant, Vulcanidris cratensis, a winged insect with fearsome jaws that lived about 113 million years ago during the age of dinosaurs. Unearthed in north eastern Brazil's Crato Formation, this medium-sized ant, about half an inch long, belonged to a lineage called hell ants, known for their scythe-like jaws. Unlike modern ants, Vulcanidris' mandibles moved vertically and were likely used to impale prey. It also had wings, a stinger, and resembled a wasp to an untrained eye. The fossil, remarkably preserved in limestone, suggests ants originated much earlier than previously known, possibly between 168 million and 120 million years ago. Vulcanidris lived in a rich ecosystem alongside insects, reptiles, and feathered dinosaurs like Ubirajara. Ants today, numbering an estimated 20 quadrillion globally, play vital roles in ecosystems from predation and herbivory to soil health and decomposition. This discovery, published in Current Biology, highlights the ancient and complex history of one of Earth's most dominant life forms.



— AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Should you give sanitary pads a pass to escape toxic shock syndrome?

A viral trend is urging women to ditch sanitary pads. Does science support this claim?

| FirstCheck.in

Claim: Menstrual products, such as sanitary pads, can cause infections and even lead to potentially fatal toxic shock syndrome. **Fact:** Sanitary pads are not associated with toxic shock syndrome. Maintaining proper menstrual hygiene is the only guarantee against bacterial infection of the vagina. Holistic living, going back to your roots, and trying to find "natural" remedies to everyday issues are all the rage now.

But how far is too far? Some sections have now gone to the extent of advising women against using sanitary pads and other menstrual hygiene products when on their monthly periods. Instead, they ask these menstruating women to let themselves bleed freely, claiming that this is the kind of healthy lifestyle that women in the past led. "Free bleeding," as the practice is popularly called, involves allowing yourself to bleed freely while on your periods without using sanitary products such as pads, tampons or cups, to hold the blood. Some, however, use period panties to avoid leaks and stains. In recent years, there has been an increased interest in the practice, with many saying that the practice can also help protect you from toxic shock syndrome, and infections of the vagina.

"Free bleeding is an empowering and positive way to confront the reality and social stigma of menstruation," according to an advocate of the practice. They go on to say that they chose to free bleed, with just a period panty, and found the experience "liberating." "Free bleeding keeps your usual vaginal fluid and healthy bacteria where they should be—in your vagina… No more anxiety about leaks, running low on tampons/pads, toxic shock syndrome (TSS), toxins and chemicals in menstrual products or ruining your favourite (sic.) underwear," they claim.

So are sanitary pads a health hazard?

Toxic shock syndrome is a rare infection that can be life threatening. While it can be triggered by poor menstrual hygiene, the risks associated are higher with internal/insertable menstrual products such as tampons and menstrual cups, rather than sanitary pads. "TSS is only linked to the use of internal protection, i.e. protection that is inserted inside the vagina, such as tampons and menstrual cups. External protection (sanitary towels, panty liners, menstrual panties, etc.) cannot cause TSS," according to ANSES, the French public administrative body reporting to the Ministries of Health, the Environment, Agriculture, and Labour. Not changing ones' pads after a recommended number of hours could induce bacterial infection However, if one exercises proper menstrual hygiene, then sanitary pads cannot induce bacterial infection. In fact, the Government of South Australia advises people to use pads, over tampons, at night to avoid the risks of toxic shock syndrome.

Dr Shelly Batra, head of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Batra Hospital told First Check that toxic shock syndrome typically occurs when something is left in the vagina for a long period of time. "It is not detected, and it gets infected. An example of this could be a tampon left inside, a menstrual cup left inside, even a condom left inside and forgotten," she said. "Another case that I have seen is when a patient underwent a surgical procedure. And in the vagina, the doctor had inserted a gauze piece, soaking it with some antiseptic solution. And then everyone forgot to take it out." Dr Batra added that wrong use of sanitary pads and not changing frequently can cause the problem. "They can cause pelvic infections. They can also cause excoriation, grazing against the skin and rubbing and a kind of irritation in the groin," she said. The gynaecologist suggested the use of period panties that can control a lot of blood. ***The story was originally published by firstcheck.com (Scan QR Code) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.***

HEALTH TIP: Teaching children appropriate dietary and lifestyle habits from a young age is one of the most effective ways for reducing obesity cases

Just a handful of pumpkin seeds can meet a good portion of your daily iron needs

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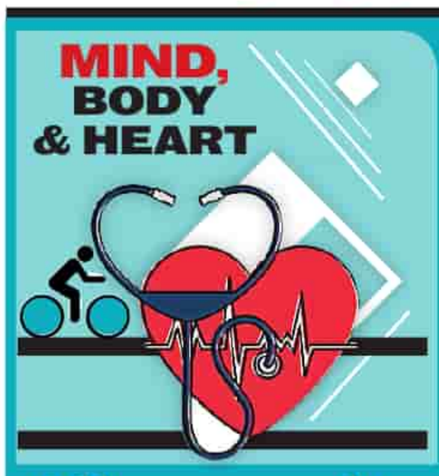


All you need to know about...

3 minutes of activity

Good for heart
Just three minutes a day of moderate activity may be enough to boost better heart health in older adults, according to a study.
Previous studies have shown that as people age, many do not engage in physical activity, increasing their chances of experiencing a cardiovascular event.

Even household chores okay
In the new study, researchers from the UK and Australia noted that doing household chores or shopping for groceries -- referred to as incidental activities -- may also be enough to boost health.
Incidental physical activity (IPA) encompasses activities of daily living outside the leisure-time domain and includes preparing meals, keeping the house clean, mowing the lawn, or gardening.

Lower cardio disease risk
"Any daily IPA amount of vigorous or moderate-intensity was associated with lower cardiovascular disease risk in a dose-response manner," said the researchers from the University of Sydney.
"Our findings highlight the potential cardiovascular health value of incidental physical activity, especially for people who struggle to do structured exercise," they added.

The study
In the study published in the journal Circulation, the team analysed data on 24,139 people who wore wrist monitors that tracked their activity levels and who self-identified as non-exercisers.
These were compared with those whose wrist monitors showed they engaged in regular moderate activity with those who were more or less active.
The results showed that people who engaged in regular moderate incidental activity had a lower risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event or dying from one.
The key is to try to do several short-duration activities every day, said the researchers. —IANS

TASTE OF COOL

How to chill out this summer if not with these delicious bites?

MANGO CHOCOLATE LOLLIPOPS

INGREDIENTS
Mango Ganache
- 100 g mango puree
- 10 g sugar
- 300 g white chocolate melted
- Chocolate shells as per Required

METHOD
- Bring puree and sugar to a boil in a small pot.
- Slowly pour over white chocolate and whisk until smooth.
- Cool to 30ºC before filling shells.
- Place a lollipop stick in each and freeze until firm.
- Mango Chocolate Coating Mixture
- 350 g white chocolate,
- 150 g cocoa butter
- Melt chocolate and cocoa butter to 40ºC over a double boiler.
- Temper coating to 30ºC before using.
- Remove frozen lollipops from Molds and dip each into Mango Mixture.
- Optional: You can sprinkle each lollipop lightly with white chocolate shards and edible glitter.
- Set aside until firm and enjoy!

PASSION FRUIT MANGO MOUSSE ENTREMETS

INGREDIENTS
Mango Mousse
- 4 g gelatin sheets
- 175 g mango puree
- 30 g confectioner's sugar
- 175 g heavy cream, whipped to soft peaks
- Soak gelatin in ice water until softened squeeze out excess water and set aside.
- Bring puree and sugar to a simmer in a small pot.
- Stir in gelatine to dissolve and set aside to cool. Fold in the whipped cream.

Passion Fruit Jelly
- 2 gelatin sheets
- 275 g passion fruit puree
- 50 g granulated sugar
- Soak gelatin in ice water until softened; squeeze out excess water and set aside.
- Bring puree and sugar to a simmer in a small pot.
- Stir in gelatin to dissolve and set aside to cool.

Passion Fruit Ganache
- 150 g passion fruit puree
- 75 g sugar
- 25 g heavy cream
- 375 g Valrhona white chocolate melted
- 37 g unsalted butter

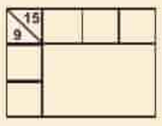
METHOD
- Bring puree, sugar and heavy cream to a boil in a small pot.
- Slowly pour mixture over white chocolate and whisk until glossy and smooth.
- Continue to mix until ganache reaches 35°C/95°F.
- Stir in cubed butter and finish with a hand blender to emulsify.
- Place half sheet of Sponge Cake into half sheet pan frame.
- Top evenly with a thin layer of Passion Fruit Ganache and freeze until set.
- Spread Mango Mousse over ganache and freeze until set.
- Pour Passion Fruit Jelly evenly over mousse and freeze until set before cutting as desired.
- Garnish with Whipped Coconut Cremeux and Chef's Garden flowers and herbs and enjoy!

Recipes by Chef Susheel Thakur, Pastry Chef – Grand Mercure at Gopalan Mall, Bengaluru

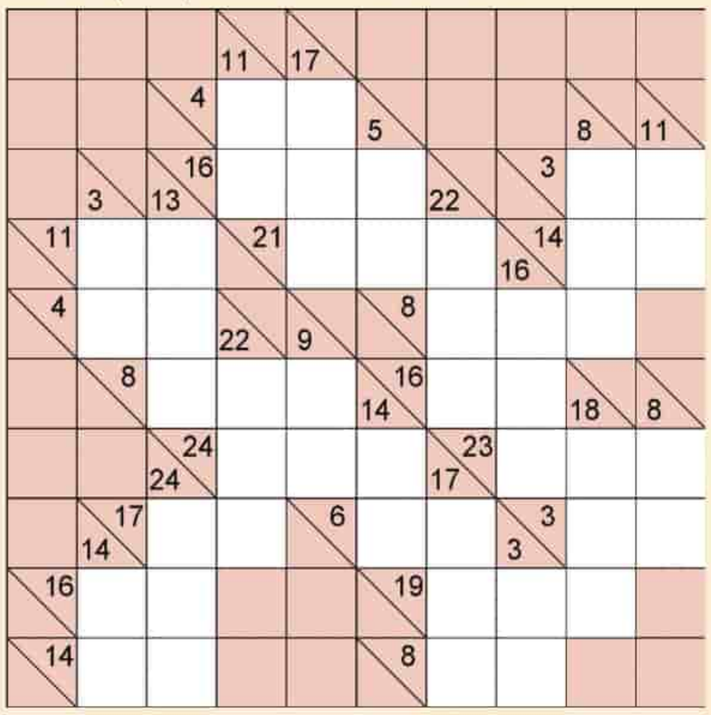
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

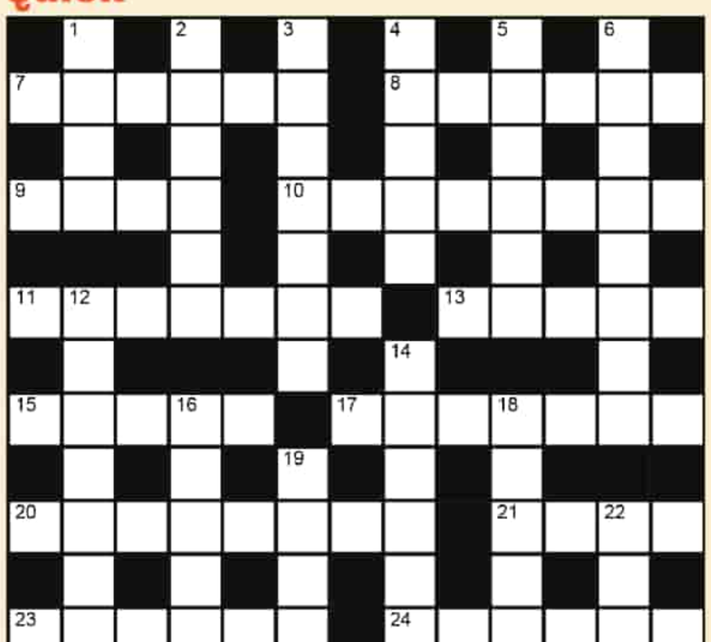
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Important city in Pakistan (6)
8 Length of time (6)
9 Hollywood's Brad ___ (4)
10 It has 366 days (4,4)
11 Decline (7)
13 Extemporize (2-3)
15 First musketeer (5)
17 Conundrums, enigmas or riddles (7)
20 Eulogizing or glorifying (8)
21 Head supporter (4)
23 Mum or dad? (6)
24 Chatter (6)

DOWN

1 Indian garment (4)
2 Lyrical (6)
3 Inner upper surface of room (7)
4 A steamed dosa (5)
5 Appealed to a higher power (6)
6 Genuine or real (4,4)
12 On the outside (8)
14 Arbitrating, referring or adjudicating (7)
16 Dickens' ___ Twist (6)
18 Highest point (6)
19 Young domestic cat (5)
22 Ship's company (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS P

BTYCY QCY Q TQKIMHN WM RYWRNY STWU UWKYJ SWK'B ARWGN, QKI SY QNN LWHKB WHCAYNOYA QUWKV BTYU.

Linemaro

If we were in different vehicles, I would wish the traffic light would turn red, so that I could stare at you longer

Mindchow

Reputation is what men and women think of us. Character is what God and the angels know of us

Joke of the day

Euphemism is a euphemism for lying

Loop

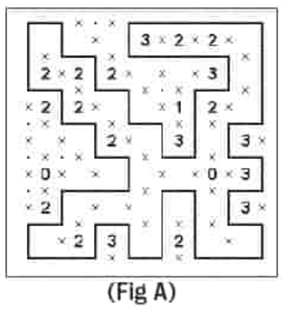
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

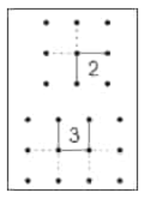
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

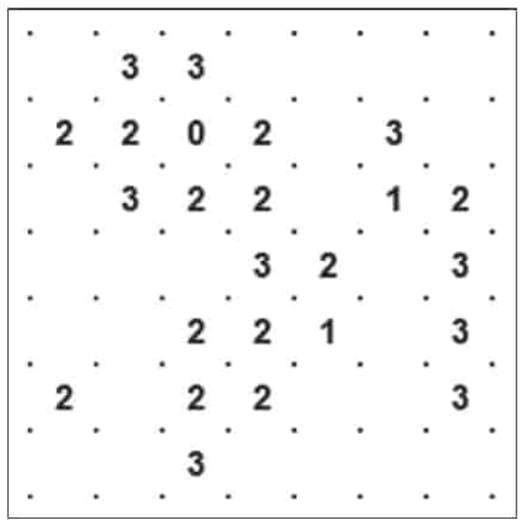
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



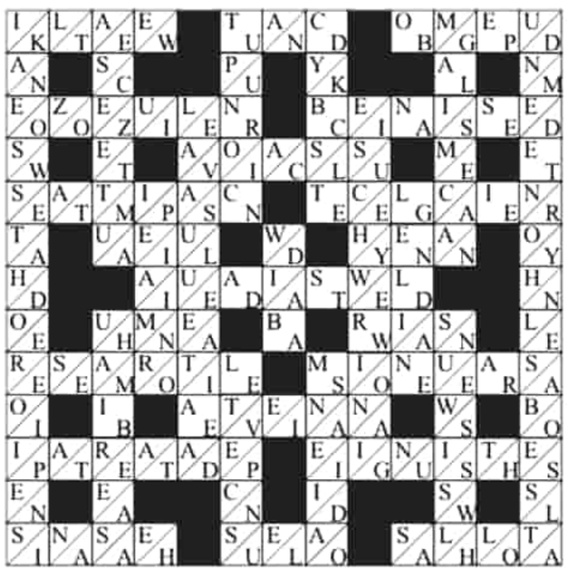
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3 B	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

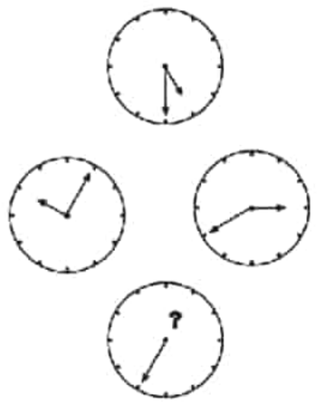
1 Me Reb; 6 A urea; 7 Rag SS; 8 Vee Le; 9 X Tree

DOWN

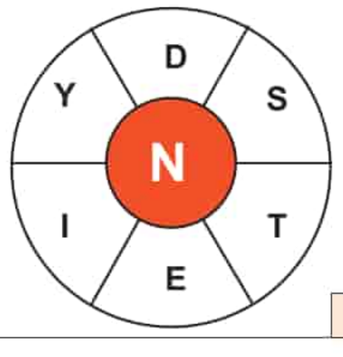
1 A glee; 2 Rumex; 3 Be var; 4 Saree; 5 Ester

Mensapuzzle

Where should the missing hour hand point to on the bottom clockface?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7	8						3	2
	4		9		3		1	
				7				
	7	6		5		2	8	
3								5
	9	1		8		7	4	
				6				
	6		7		5		2	
9	5						6	1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

2 2 7 8

Medium = 59

5 5 6 8

Hard = 12

2 5 6 8

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

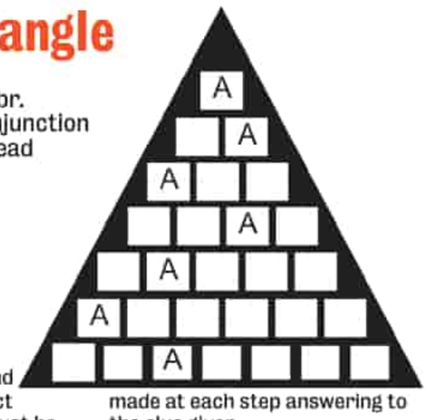
Differences: 1. Stream of coffee is not showing. 2. Coat is shorter. 3. Brim of cap is longer. 4. Pocket is smaller. 5. Collar is different. 6. Tree limb is longer.

Riddler

Can you break this code? Shift three. Caps lock one. Shift six. Tab six. Tab nine. Tab seven. Tab four. Tab three. Caps lock one. Caps lock three. Tab five. Caps lock six. Tab eight. Caps lock two. Shift 10.

Alpha triangle

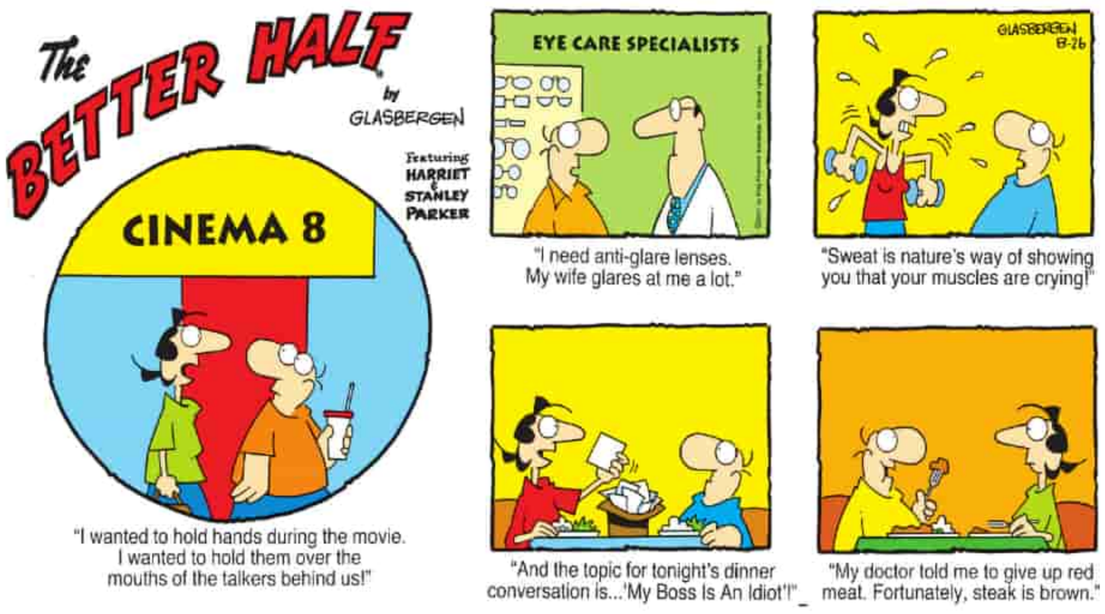
1 First letter
2 Not available, abbr.
3 Most famous conjunction
4 College faculty head
5 Move to music
6 Climb
7 Church officials

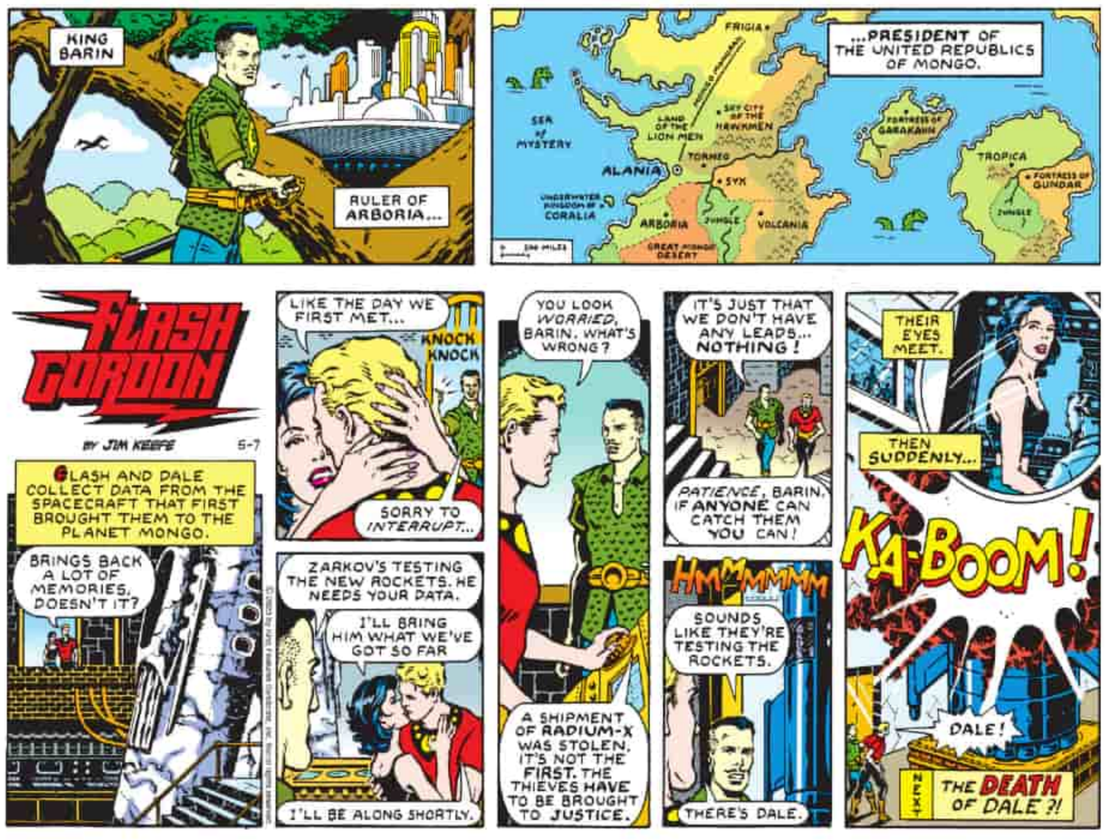


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
CINEMA 8
"I wanted to hold hands during the movie. I wanted to hold them over the mouths of the talkers behind us!"
EYE CARE SPECIALISTS
"I need anti-glare lenses. My wife glares at me a lot."
GLASBERGEN 8-26
"Sweat is nature's way of showing you that your muscles are crying!"
"And the topic for tonight's dinner conversation is...'My Boss Is An Idiot'!"
"My doctor told me to give up red meat. Fortunately, steak is brown."


KING BARIN
RULER OF ARBORIA...
...PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLICS OF MONGO.
FRIGIA
SEA OF MYSTERY
LAND OF THE LION MEN
SKY CITY OF THE HAWKMEN
FORTRESS OF GARAKAHN
ALANIA
TORNEG
SYX
TROPICA
FORTRESS OF GUNDAR
UNDERWATER KINGDOM OF CORALIA
ARBORIA
JUNGLE
VOLCANIA
GREAT MONGO DESERT
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
5-7
FLASH AND DALE COLLECT DATA FROM THE SPACECRAFT THAT FIRST BROUGHT THEM TO THE PLANET MONGO.
BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES, DOESN'T IT?
LIKE THE DAY WE FIRST MET...
KNOCK KNOCK
SORRY TO INTERRUPT...
ZARKOV'S TESTING THE NEW ROCKETS. HE NEEDS YOUR DATA.
I'LL BRING HIM WHAT WE'VE GOT SO FAR
I'LL BE ALONG SHORTLY.
YOU LOOK WORRIED, BARIN. WHAT'S WRONG?
A SHIPMENT OF RADIUM-X WAS STOLEN. IT'S NOT THE FIRST. THE THIEVES HAVE TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.
IT'S JUST THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY LEADS... NOTHING!
PATIENCE, BARIN. IF ANYONE CAN CATCH THEM YOU CAN!
HMMMMMM
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE TESTING THE ROCKETS.
THERE'S DALE.
THEIR EYES MEET.
THEN SUDDENLY...
KA-BOOM!
DALE!
NEXT THE DEATH OF DALE?!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The Moon's blessings bring happiness today. Your communication skills may help you secure a significant order. You'll likely be polite and cooperative, making important business decisions with the support of your colleagues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
With the Moon favoring you, you'll feel energetic and enjoy your work. Romantic moments with your spouse will enhance domestic harmony. You may start planning a new project, paying close attention to detail. Job seekers might find promising opportunities. Lovebirds should avoid unnecessary arguments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today may bring discomfort, as old health issues could resurface, making you uneasy. Impatience might lead to poor decisions—think carefully before acting. Avoid impulsive spending on unnecessary items.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Positivity and happiness flow today, thanks to the Moon's support. Past investments may yield good returns. Quick decisions at work could lead to financial gains in the near future.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Work keeps you busy, but your strong network will help turn plans into reality. Wisdom may bring profits from past investments. Quality time with your spouse will strengthen domestic harmony, and lovebirds will enjoy joyful moments together.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The Moon blesses you with renewed energy and happiness. Recent difficulties are easing, and your efforts will be recognized. With team support, postponed projects can now progress. Business gains will likely improve your financial standing.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel low today, possibly due to minor health concerns. Avoid making new business investments, as gains could turn into losses. This isn't a favorable time for starting new ventures—proceed cautiously.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Enthusiasm and energy drive you today, helping you move projects forward and make effective decisions. New ideas in partnerships may arise, but avoid investing in fixed assets for now.

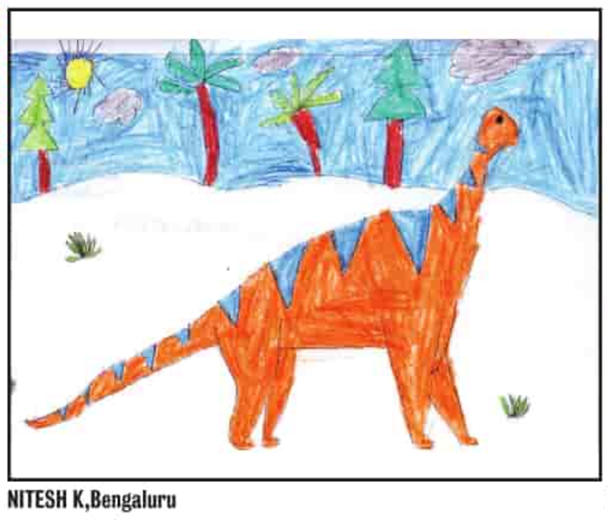
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The positive Moon brings a sense of well-being. Old health issues may improve, and stuck payments might finally be recovered. You may also consider applying for a loan to purchase luxury items or make new investments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Blessed by Jupiter, your confidence and decision-making skills are strong today. You'll act decisively and might seize exciting opportunities. Expect to spend on family and friends. Lovebirds will enjoy each other's company, and job seekers may find leads through social contacts.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You might feel uninspired today. Arrogance could create tension at work or home. A lack of self-confidence might hinder your creativity. It's best to stay calm and postpone major decisions for now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Energy is high today, and your hard work will begin to pay off, boosting your confidence. Property disputes with siblings may finally reach resolution. A meeting with an influential person could expand your professional network.

KIDZONE



NITESH K,Bengaluru

Sanjanna, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER It spells out "Can you read this?" Use your keyboard like a grid. Tab, caps lock and shift are the vertical side of the grid and one through nine are the horizontal side of the grid. For example shift five would be 8.

BULL'S EYE DENSITY, dent, deny, DESTINY, dine, dint, dyne, inset, nest, send, sent, sine, snide, stein, tend, tine, tined, tiny

E	M	B	E	R
A	U	R	A	E
G	R	A	S	S
L	E	V	E	E
E	X	E	R	T

FAST FIVE

SOLVE IN 1M
= 6 · (1/0.6) · (½)
= 6·2 · (½)
= 36·½
= 36/3 = 12

STRIKE OUT

S	A	S	H	S	E	A	S	H	O	T				
E		A		N		D		S		L				
P	A	R	A	D	E	I	G	N	I	T	E			
O	B	E	V	I	A	N		W		B				
R	E	M	O	T	E	M	I	N	E	R	S			
E	U	N	A	B		W	I	N		E				
H	A	U	D	I	T	E	D			N				
T	A	I	L	D	H	E	N	O						
S	A	M	P	A	N	E	C	L	A	I	R			
W	E	V	I	A	L	S	M	E						
O	O	Z	I	E	R	C	E	A	S	E	D			
N	C	U	Y	A	N									

QUICK

L		R		Y		G		H		W				
P	A	R	E	N	T	N	A	T	T	E	R			
N		V		T		I		I		R				
P	R	A	I	S	I	N	G		N	E	C	K		
E		L		K		D		E						
A	T	H	O	S	P	U	Z	Z	L	E	S			
X				G		J				D				
D	E	S	C	E	N	T		A	D	L	I	B		
I		I		M		I		E		F				
P	I	T	T	L	E	A	P	Y	E	A	R			
R		E		I		P		A		N				
L	A	H	O	R	E	P	E	R	I	O	D			
S		P		C		A		P		B				

MENSA PUZZLE
To the 4. The sum of the numbers pointed to by the hour and minute hands is always 11.

QUOTE UNCODE
There are a handful of people whom money won't spoil, and we all count ourselves among them.

SUDOKU

7	8	9	5	1	4	6	3	2
6	4	5	9	2	3	8	1	7
2	1	3	8	7	6	9	5	4
4	7	6	1	5	9	2	8	3
3	2	8	6	4	7	1	9	5
5	9	1	3	8	2	7	4	6
8	3	2	4	6	1	5	7	9
1	6	4	7	9	5	3	2	8
9	5	7	2	3	8	4	6	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, NA, And, Dean, Dance, Ascend, Deacons.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 - 2 + 8 + 7 = 15
Medium
5 + 8 x 5 - 6 = 59
Hard
5 x 2 - 8 x 6 = 12

KAKURO

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Scorsese with Homebound— Hollywood legend Martin Scorsese has boarded the team of Neeraj Ghaywan's upcoming movie "Homebound" as an executive producer, the Indian director announced on Saturday

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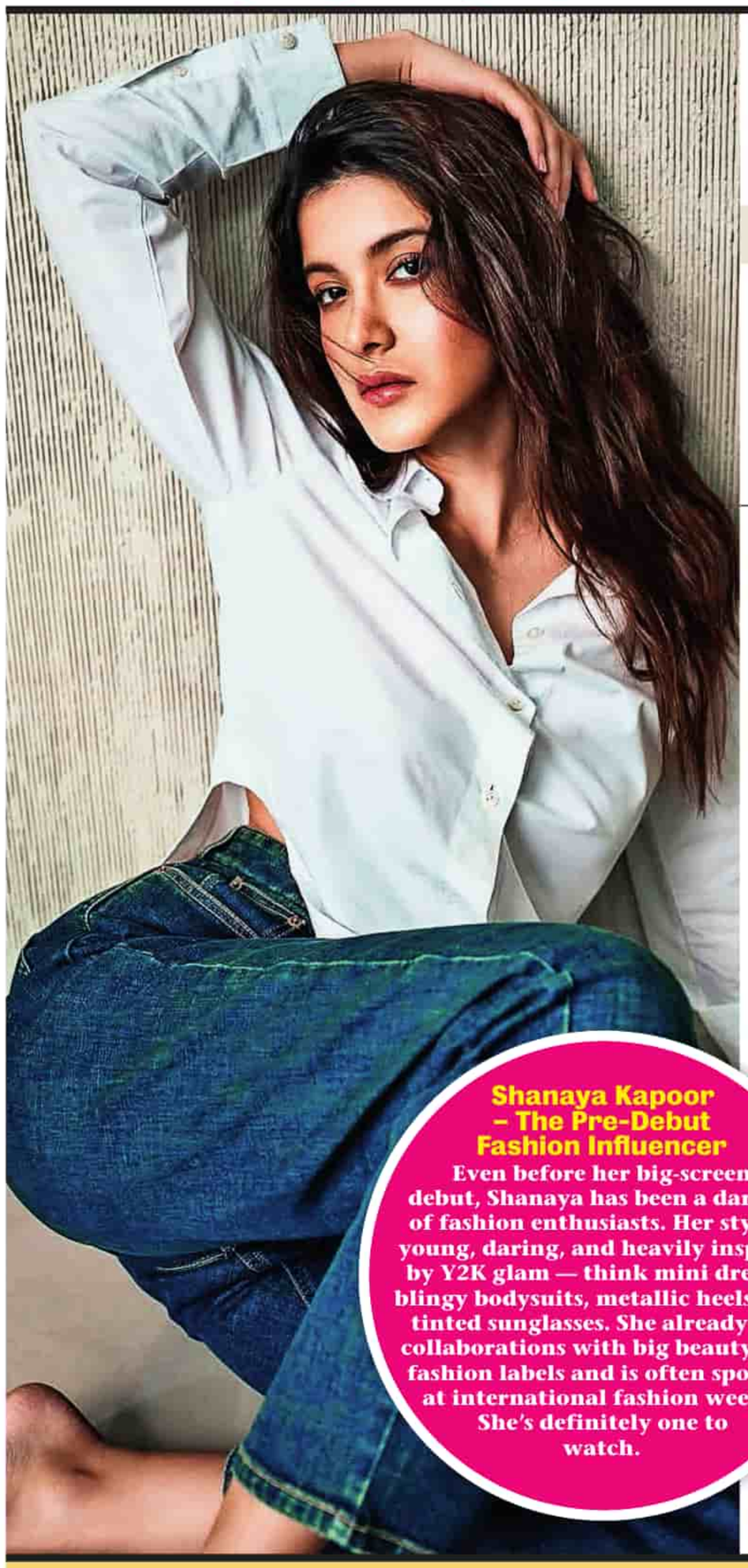


They lead, we follow

Actresses who are crushing it on social media

B-Town actresses are on top of their social media game. Whether it be for their style of fashion sense, they have followers hooked on to their feed on Instagram. Check out who they are.

—ETimes

Kareena Kapoor Khan – Timeless Elegance with a Modern Twist

Bebo isn't just Bollywood royalty — she's a fashion institution. Whether she's lounging in breezy kaftans, acing power dressing in sleek blazers, or channeling old-school charm in a sharara, her looks are always balanced between comfort and glam. She's a pro at minimal makeup, statement eyes, and that iconic pout. Her off-duty style, especially those gym looks and family brunch OOTDs, continue to inspire millions of fans and fashion brands alike.

Shanaya Kapoor – The Pre-Debut Fashion Influencer

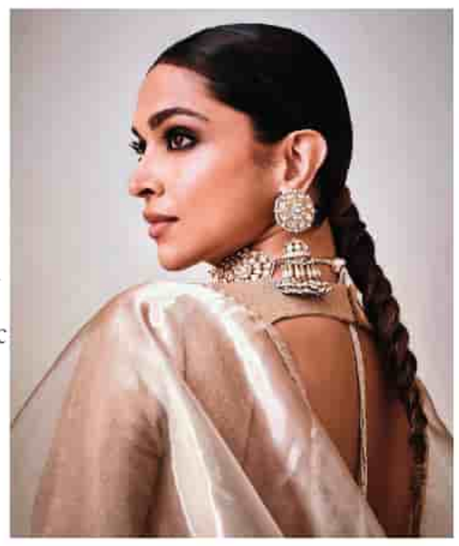
Even before her big-screen debut, Shanaya has been a darling of fashion enthusiasts. Her style is young, daring, and heavily inspired by Y2K glam — think mini dresses, blingy bodysuits, metallic heels, and tinted sunglasses. She already has collaborations with big beauty and fashion labels and is often spotted at international fashion weeks. She's definitely one to watch.

Alia Bhatt – The Girl Next Door Who Became a Style Chameleon

From cute college wear to couture gowns, Alia has undergone a serious fashion evolution. Her style reflects her versatility as an actor — playful yet poised, youthful yet polished. During her pregnancy, Alia made headlines for her maternity looks that broke stereotypes: think flowy dresses, easy kurtas, and stylish co-ords. She's the face of Gen Z fashion that prioritizes individuality, minimalism, and a dash of quirk.

Deepika Padukone – The Queen of International Luxury

When Deepika steps out, it's a full-blown moment. With her ambassadorships for global luxury brands like Louis Vuitton and Cartier, she's cemented herself as an international fashion icon. From power suits in bold hues to dramatic gowns with architectural cuts, her looks are commanding, feminine, and always ahead of the curve. Her signature slick bun and kohl-rimmed eyes complete the ultra-polished aesthetic.



Janhvi Kapoor – The New-Age Desi Glam Goddess

Janhvi's wardrobe is a dreamy mix of traditional silhouettes and red carpet razzle-dazzle. From sultry sarees and hand-embroidered lehengas to figure-hugging gowns with thigh-high slits, her looks are always on point. She's got a soft spot for pastels and shimmer, and her soft-glam makeup — glossy lips, dewy skin, fluttery lashes — is consistently flawless. Her Insta shoots? Always viral.

A close peek into Ballari life

Praveen Kumar, who worked as an associate director and dialogue writer for a few Kannada movies, has graduated as a full-fledged director with this movie. Perhaps, the experience of working as associate director helped him to handle the megaphone with aplomb for this movie. His speciality is narrating the script without hurry and also not giving unnecessary importance or glorifying the actors. He has followed the script religiously and also made all the actors stick to it. The cuisine mentioned in the movie, dialogues, the location of Harapanahalli Primary School, and Bellary Fort that rests on a monolithic rock have added value to the movie. The scene where the heroine escapes from a village indicates the reality of basic amenities in rural areas of Ballari.

The movie is about two students - Arun and Kavya - of a primary school who are found busy in scribbling FLAMES on the last page of a notebook. Both become friends and begin sharing uppittu while attending classes. Meanwhile, Arun's parents have to relocate to Ballari. Arun (Harisharvaa) becomes a medical representative. His parents want him to get married and lead a family life but he wants to meet his childhood friend Kavya (Deepika Aradhya) but does not know her whereabouts. Finally, he succeeds in meeting Kavya. What happens to Arun and Kavya is what Amara Premi Arun is all about.

Harisharvaa has acted well. He walks away with all honours for his sterling performance in love and emotional scenes. His dialogue delivery and gestures deserve a pat on the back. Deepika Aradhya has also acted well. She may be an asset to Sandalwood if she focuses on her acting career. Dharmanna Kadur, as a sidekick of the hero, has acted well. His dialogues and performance tickle audiences' funny bones.

Kiran Ravindranath has scored lilting music. Praveen S has done a good job behind the camera.

It is worth watching by whole family members.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

AMARA PREMI ARUN

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Praveen Kumar
- **ACTORS** Harisharvaa, Deepika Aradhya, Dharmanna Kadur, Krithi Bhat, Mahesh Bung,
- **Duration** 144 minutes
- **Certification** U